

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus that holds a plurality of optical fiber ferrules, the holder comprising:

a holder plate provided with a plurality of insertion holes into each of which one of said ferrules is inserted, a seat provided for said insertion holes that extends to one side of at least one of said insertion holes, said seat having a first wall located at a distance from the insertion hole, and a second wall provided on a side of the insertion hole opposite said seat;

a holding member disposed on said seat, said holding member being slidable in a direction to adjust the spacing between the holding member and said second wall, the holding member including a front face confronting said second wall, and a rear face inclined relative to the first wall;

a rod member disposed on said inclined rear face of said holding member; and

a depression member provided on the holder plate at an outside of said first wall of said seat that exerts a force on said rod member,

wherein by the operating of said depression member, said rod member is pressed downwardly along said first wall of said seat, by which action said holding member is pushed out forwardly such that said ferrule is held by said front face of the holding member and said second wall.

2. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a seat is provided for a group of adjacent insertion holes, said inclined rear face extends horizontally in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the sliding motion of said holding member, said plurality of ferrules inserted in said adjacent insertion holes being held by said front face of said holding member disposed on each said seat together with said second walls of said adjacent insertion holes.

3. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of insertion holes is formed in a circular formation on said holder plate and each seat is provided at the outside in relation to the center of said circular formation of said insertion holes.

4. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each holding member is biased in a direction away from said second wall.

5 5. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each second wall holds a ferrule inserted into said insertion hole by one or a plurality of faces depending on the shape of said ferrule.

6. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said depression member comprises a washer and a screw that is threaded into
10 said holder plate from above.

7. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the axis of each insertion hole is inclined perpendicularly or at a given angle with respect to a planar surface of said holder plate.
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8. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each insertion hole has a rectangular cross-section in plan view of said holder plate.

20 9. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each insertion hole has a triangular cross-section in plan view of said holder plate.

10. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim
25 1, wherein each combination of seat, holding member, rod member, and depression member is associated with at least two insertion holes.

11. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus for holding a plurality of optical fiber ferrules, the holder comprising:
30 a holder plate having a plurality of insertion holes arranged about the center of said holder plate, each insertion hole adapted to receive one of said ferrules, a seat provided in said holder plate for at least one of said insertion holes, said seat extending radially outside

of said one insertion hole, said seat having a first wall spaced radially outwardly from said one insertion hole, a second wall provided on a side of the insertion hole radially inwardly of said first wall;

5 a holding member adapted to be mounted on said seat, said holding member having a front face confronting said second wall and a rear face inclined relative to the first wall, said holding member being slidable in said seat in a radial direction to adjust the spacing between the front face of the holding member and said second wall;

a rod member adapted to bear against said inclined rear face of said holding member; and

10 a depression member adapted to be attached to the holder plate radially outwardly of said first wall, said depression member adapted to exert a force on said rod member so as to urge the holding member toward said second wall.

12. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim
15 11, wherein said plurality of insertion holes are arranged in pairs, a seat is provided in said holder plate for each pair of insertion holes.

13. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim
20 11, wherein said seats are arranged in a circle about the center of said holder plate, said insertion holes being arranged in pairs, each pair of insertion holes and the front faces of said holding members being arranged parallel to chords of said circle.

14. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim
25 11, wherein the holder plate has an upper planar surface, an annular groove formed in the upper surface of said holder plate intersecting said seat.

15. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim
11, including a compression spring arranged in a bore on the front face of the holding member for urging the holding member outwardly away from the second wall.

16. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each insertion hole has one of a rectangular or triangular cross-section in plan view of said holder plate.

5 17. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said rod member engages both the inclined rear face of said holding member and the first wall of said seat such that a force applied to the rod member by the depression member urges holding member radially inwardly and slidably in said seat.

10 18. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said seat intersects at least one insertion hole and the second wall forms at least a part of said one insertion hole.

15 19. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said second wall comprises four surfaces, each surface being arranged at an angle relative to said first wall.

20 20. A holder for an optical fiber ferrule end face grinding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said second wall comprises two surfaces, each surface being arranged parallel to said first wall.